

The Pileup

W4DXA

Newsletter of the CDXA

February 1999

N4PQX	Bob Burton	President
W4WN	Cliff Wagoner	Vice-President
K4MQG	Gary Dixon	Sec-Treasurer
K4ZA	Don Daso	Editor

CDXA Packet Cluster & other communications systems

W4DXA	Young Mountain, NC	144.93 (1200 baud) & 441.00 (1200/9600 baud)
K4MD	Charlotte, NC	144.91 (1200 baud) & 441.075 (1200/9600 baud)
DXWIN	Digi-peater near Wingate, NC	144.91
repeater 147.18 (+600) near Fort Mill, SC		
homepage: www.cdxa.org		

The Pileup is published 10 times a year; there are no issues in June or December.

[Click here to go back to the CDXA home page.](#)

Click on the links below to go to the sections of this month's Newsletter.

- [Presidential Ponderings](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Web Wanderings](#)
- [The Back Page](#)

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Presidential Ponderings

I hope everyone who needed and wanted to work the ZL9CI expedition made it into the logs. Their record, over 96,000 QSOs, means you had a good chance. And, we now have a new DXCC entity, as Palestine (E4) became a new one on Feb. 1st. All this news is great for our hobby, bringing activity up, but with it also comes some sad news, as King Hussein of Jordan, JY1, is now a silent key. He'll be greatly missed throughout the world and amateur community.

K4MD told me he continues to modify the Phoenix radios for use on our UHF packet frequencies. These radios have been performing well, as many of you know. If you're interested in upgrading to 9600-baud on UHF, please contact Joe directly for one of these radios. I'd like to thank Joe for his efforts in the conversion/upgrade process, as well as all the Sysops and volunteers who keep the PacketCluster running.

It's time for the Charlotte Hamfest again; this year our CDXA booth will be a very active one. We plan to have a packet station, a slide show of member stations, and a computer demo of the CDXA website. Please get slides of your station to K4ZA for this show. Don is looking for color prints of your station as well, which can be scanned and added to the Gallery section on the CDXA webpage. I've been roaming around the area on weekends with my camera and color slide film-so get on 147.18 and call me if you need pictures taken. We'll also be raffling a very nice Brookstone 102-piece tool set, complete with an aluminum carrying case. The set will be on display, so come by the booth (with your friends), support the CDXA by buying some raffle tickets. And, this year's Saturday night CDXA social event will feature something different, as we've changed locations to save money. This year's gathering will be at the Steak and Ale at 100 E. Woodlawn Road, 7-10 PM, Saturday night. We have a room reserved, and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Dinner and drink are your responsibility. Prices are reasonable with a good menu selection.

A final reminder: You should pre-register for the Hamfest, to take advantage of their special \$3 parking fee for BOTH days. This offer's only good if you pre-register, and the deadline is February 27th.

There are also several contests coming up. Look for fellow CDXA members in the appropriate contests and, if you participate, please send your score to W4WN. We'd like to submit a club score, so if you take part, let Cliff know.

ARRL International DX CW Contest	February 20-21
CQ 160m Phone Contest	February 26-28
North Carolina QSO Party	February 27-28
ARRL International DX Phone Contest	March 6-7

I hope to hear you in the upcoming contests and look forward to meeting many of you at the Charlotte Hamfest.

73! Bob --N4PQX

Editorial

HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES

(A few lines of wit and wisdom, ranting and raving, Mutt and Jeffisms, Roy and Dale truisms, and kernels of insight instead of the usual editorial....)

As often happens, when confronted with the realities of life and death, we are reminded that we cannot escape nor change time's eternal march. With JY1's passing, we are reminded, too, of the very unique and special nature of our hobby-how it's somehow suitable for a king, as well as "ordinary" people. See K4MQG's reminiscences elsewhere in The Pileup for more on JY1.

It's possible, perhaps even probable, that you've encountered one of the "famous" or otherwise noteworthy folks who share our hobby. I once spoke with Barry Goldwater, and worked JY1 in the '97 CQWW phone contest, with Hussein operating. For the life of me, I cannot fathom why someone on frequency commented, "You lucky bastard," when the QSO was over, but so it goes, as Ms. Ellerbee and Mr. Vonnegut used to say.

This Pileup is the penultimate issue before the Charlotte Hamfest next month. As such, it's the final reminder (okay, consider it a plea, or begging, a kind of mild threat, a minor entreatment) for those PICTURES we need for the CDXA booth and website. Again, slides for the booth show, prints for the website! IF you get them to me IN TIME-two weeks before the Hamfest-I will make slides from your prints. But, I need time to do it, so act accordingly.

The March Pileup will be larger. It will be the "free" handout issue we use to entice folks into joining our august society. Naturally, this means it'd be a great time for some of you to jot down a few lines on what you've been up to, or would like to learn something about, or need to do before the dog days of summer get here or some other DX tidbits. In other words, it'd look really neat if someone besides ye-olde editor K4ZA wrote every word in the issue we generously distribute. And, of course, after the Hamfest, we will publish the annual roster. Again, I remind you to return the N4PQX-generated survey, from last month's Pileup, marked accordingly, if there's anything you wish NOT TO APPEAR on the roster. Otherwise, the roster will include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and your pet's name (if we can make it all fit the page).

Remember, it's The Carolina DX Association. There's a bunch of us. There's strength in numbers-as the old cliché goes. If each of us does one tiny, small, miniscule, itty-bitty part, the club will grow and benefit each and every member. And then, this association can help others, and so on, and so on, and so on....

It all starts with you!

Like anagrams? Here's one for you to figure out-appropriate to ham radio: here come dots

--K4ZA

Next Page
Pileup Home

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Web Wanderings

<http://www.tiac.net/users/shiacawn/rotors/>
Norm's Rotator Service-parts & service for your rotator

<http://www.gate.net/~ke4jcd/hamradio.html>
The simplest way to describe this site is a "megalist" location. Tons of ham radio links to pique your interest & curiosity.

<http://www.ipass.net/~teara/vin.html>
You like "vintage radio" stuff-those rigs that glow in the dark? Here's another part source you find find useful. Are there any such foks in CDXA? How about a few lines on working with this gear?

<http://emtron.com.au/>
Heard about those new amplifiers from Australia? Here's where you read & view the latest info. Veeerrrrry inter-esting....

<http://umbra.gsfc.nasa.gov/images/latest.html>
Click on any of the 10 thumbnail images for the most recent, full-resolution solar image of each type in the SDAC archive (time/date of the image are in brackets after each description). Includes solar data links.

INFORMATION JUST BEGGING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION-IT AFFECTS US ALL, REALLY IT DOES!

There's been a large decrease in the number of hams holding privileges below 50 MHz within the past few months. At the same time, there's been a great increase in the no-code ranks.

Some numbers through November of 1998:

June, 1997 through November, 1998

Extra	73,737.....74,496
Advanced	107,024.....103,526
General	116,629.....111,498
Tech +	139,608.....134,719
Technician	174,924.....190,510
Novice	66,551.....58,034
Total	678,473.....672,783

That's a net loss of 5,690 licensed amateurs in the US, despite an increase of 15,586 new no-code license holders. This means a drop of 21,546 licensees with privileges below 30 MHz in just 18 months time. We can draw certain conclusions from this data: 1) We've all got to stop getting older, and ultimately passing away; 2) We should all start doing whatever we can to ensure that these recent non-HF-licensed hams learn and understand something of what they might be missing. In other words, get them to upgrade.

The logical and final conclusion is more sobering. If we do NOT do one of the above choices, ham radio-as we know and love it-will change forever. Probably unrecognizably so. Since #1 isn't really an option, and since change is inevitable, wouldn't it be great if we worked to affect it-just a little bit? I think so.

-K4ZA

Next Page
Pileup Home

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THE BACK PAGE

Remembering JY1

The untimely death of King Hussein, JY1, this past weekend brought back a lot of memories for me. In July 1979, King Hussein gave me, my two sons and another couple from Charlotte an all expense paid trip to Jordan and Cyprus for two weeks.

In 1979, as now, I was very active in DXing along with Paul, K4BF, from Charlotte. We were good friends of Captain Clyde Huddleston, JY9DI & 5B4DI, who was an American 747 Airline Captain for the Royal Jordanian Airlines and also a good personal friend of King Hussein.

After King Hussein learned of my first wife's death in May 1979, he extended an invitation to Paul and me to visit his country which we graciously accepted. After determining our best time to go visit we had to make many personal arrangements and get passports for the first time. After finalizing our dates with the Palace, our only requirements were to get to Kennedy Airport in New York. After that everything was taken care of.

After spending a couple of days in New York City, the day and time came for us to board the 747 for Amman, Jordan. When we arrived at the terminal we immediately realized we were not just another tourist on the airplane. The five of us were the only ones in First Class and Paul and I were also told that we had cockpit privileges so we could play K4MQG and K4BF / Aeronautical Mobile. WOW, what fun..

After a 22-hour flight we arrived in Amman. The 747 stopped short of the main terminal and the five of us were removed and taken to their VIP lounge where we waited for our luggage to arrive. Our passports were stamped, but NO customs inspections. Hi Hi

We were met by Clyde, JY9DI, his XYL Carolyn, JY9YL, Mohammed, JY4MB, and two Palace drivers with Mercedes limousines. We were driven to a large hotel in downtown Amman across the street from the American Embassy. There we were told we could spend no money, that everything we needed was to be charged to the hotel room which would then be paid by the Palace.

From this point on was a two week whirlwind, unbelievable experience. Prince Raad, JY2RZ, who was seen many times on TV this week during the funeral services, spent a lot of time with us. He arranged sight seeing trips, evening socials and dinners with other local JY's. We spent the first week with JY4MB touring around the country in the two Palace limos. We visited the Dead Sea, Petra, Mt. Nebo and many other biblical and historic sites. At night we were treated to fabulous dinners at the homes of some of the local JY's.

The second week we were surprised when Prince Raad asked us to fly to Cyprus with him. We all went over on Cyprus Airlines as his guest, but we stayed at Clyde's QTH in Limassol where we spent a lot of time playing ham radio and participating in the annual wine festival.

Paul and I also had the opportunity to play ham radio from both of Clyde's QTHs under our own calls. My calls were JY8MQ in Jordan and K4MQG/5B4 in Cyprus. My son, Gary Jr., also operated with his call as JY8HVI and KA4HVI/5B4. We operated daily while in Jordan and Cyprus and spoke to many of our friends here in W4 land.

Unfortunately, I never got to personally meet King Hussein while there. We were scheduled to go to

the Palace on four different occasions, but were bumped each time by some political event that needed King Hussein's attention.

In March 1980, I invited King Hussein, JY1, to be our guest DX speaker at the Charlotte Hamfest. Unfortunately he was not able to attend, but he did send Mr. Blackie Blackburn, JY9BB, as his representative. His DX program probably had the largest attendance of any program in Hamfest history. It featured the November '79 8Z4A DXpedition to the Iraq / Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone which was financed by King Hussein. We anticipated a large turnout so we secured an auditorium at the Raddison Plaza for the Saturday night DX forum and it was packed.

The passing of JY1, a world class diplomat, will be a real loss to the world of Amateur Radio.

-K4MQG

Pileup Home

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